

In the claims:

Claims 1-22 cancelled.

23. (currently amended) A power tool as recited in claim 2232, wherein the slanted surface is curved, and the flexible connecting element is configured so that it is curved and flexibly guided on the slanted surface.

24. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the first operating switch (107) and the second operating switch (108) are positioned essentially at right angles to each other.

25. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the power tool (100) includes a side handle (103) and a top handle (102), the first operating switch (107) being located on the side handle (103), and the second operating switch (108) being located on the top handle (102).

26. (previously presented) The power tool as recited in Claim 25, wherein the side handle (103) and the top handle (102) transition into each other, thereby essentially forming a right angle (106), the first operating switch (107) and the second operating switch (108) being located on opposing surfaces (109, 110) within this angle (106).

27. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the connecting element (113) is made of sheet metal.

Claim 28 cancelled.

29. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the first operating switch (107) is connected with an adjusting slide (114), the adjusting slide (114) converting a motion of the first operating switch (107) into an electrical variable.

30. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the power tool (100) is a jigsaw.

31. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the first operating switch and the second operating switch are each directly fastened to the flexible connecting element.

32. (previously amended) A power tool, comprising a motor; a housing enclosing said motor; a first operating switch (107) for turning the power tool (100) on and off, a second operating switch (108) for turning the power tool on and off, and means for mechanically coupling the first operating switch (107) and the second operating switch (108) with each other, said coupling means including a flexible connecting element (113) which is formed as a sheet element,

and a continuous slanted surface which is provided in said housing and over which the flexible connecting element formed as a sheet element is flexibly guided with a surface contact therebetween, wherein the flexible connecting element has a top end and a lower end and a first flat sheet surface and a second flat sheet surface, and wherein the first operating switch is fastened to the lower end, the second operating switch is connected to the top end, and both of the operating switches are fastened to only one of flat sheet surfaces so that the other flat sheet surface is free of said switches.

33. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein engagement of either one of the first and second operating switches will turn on the tool.

34. (currently amended) The power tool as recited in Claim 2232, wherein the flexible connecting element is curved and defines an obtuse angle.

Claims 35-36 cancelled.